

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-2 and 7-12 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has objected to claims 5, 7-8 and 10-12 for informalities which have been corrected in the aforementioned amendments.

Claims 1-4 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,684,930 to Minasy et al. (hereinafter "**Minasy et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Minasy et al. discloses a deactivator for deactivating targets used in electro-magnetic article surveillance systems comprises a solid element with a convexly curved outer surface, e.g., a cylinder and a plurality of permanent magnets which form a patter of variously directed magnetic fields is a plane adjacent the surface. The curved surface of the deactivator is rolled over a target to be deactivated. The magnets are also arranged in adjacent layers with the magnets of one layer extending in a different direction form the magnets of the other layer to form a composite magnetic pattern which is discontinuous in all directions.

The detector of **Minasy et al.** is shown as a pair of walk-through antenna panels 20, 22.

This is in contrast to the present invention, in which the detector is provided downstream and adjacent to the deactivator on the same counter surface so that if deactivation fails, the tag may be immediately run through the adjacent deactivator again. The detector claimed in the present invention is in addition to the walk-through detector at the store exit.

Accordingly, claims 1-2 and 9 have been amended to clarify this distinction.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Minasy et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted above, claim 9 has been amended to recite that the detector is arranged adjacent to the deactivator, which is not taught, mentioned or suggested by Minasy et al.

Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Minasy et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,640,002 to Ruppert et al. (hereinafter "Ruppert et al.").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner has admitted that Minasy et al. does not disclose the system having a host terminal for controlling the operation of the entire system and a reporting unit for reporting the result of detection to the host terminal as electronic data, but has cited Ruppert et al. for teaching such a host terminal.

Ruppert et al. discloses a portable barcode and RF ID tag reader that gathers information about items to be purchased etc. by reading barcodes or RF ID tags. A store host computer gathers information about items to be purchased from the portable barcode/ID Tag readers and then the items are bagged by the customer at the checkout stand or by employees of the store at the checkout stand or in a separate warehouse from which the customer picks up the order. The portable barcode/RF ID tag reader can also be used in authenticating articles by accessing a factory computer using a

serial number for the article scanned from an RF ID tag on the article. The portable barcode/RF ID tag reader is comprised of a microprocessor coupled to a bar code reader, an RF ID tag reader, a spread spectrum RF transceiver, a communication port, an audible feedback device, a touchscreen or light pen and display, a thermal printer and a magnetic stripe card reader and a smart card reader.

Ruppert et al., like Minasy et al. discussed above, fails to teach, mention or suggest a detector arranged adjacent to the deactivator, as recited in the proposed amendments to claim 2, from which these claims depend.

Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-12, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/282,450

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-2 and 7-12 have been amended as follows:

1. (Three Times Amended) A commodity information management system for managing a commodity as well as security thereof based on a barcode and a tag attached to said commodity, said system comprising:

a reader for reading the barcode;

a deactivator provided downstream from said reader for deactivating the tag after the barcode is read by the reader;

a detector provided downstream from and adjacent to said deactivator for detecting effectivity of the tag; and

a notifying unit for notifying an operator of a detection result by said detector,

wherein said tag is for [performing security management at an exit of a store] assuring that payment for said commodity attached thereon is done.

2. (Three Times Amended) A commodity information management system for managing commodity as well as security thereof based on a barcode and an activated tag attached to said commodity, said system comprising:

a reader for reading the barcode;

a deactivator provided downstream from said reader for deactivating the tag after the barcode is read by the reader;

a detector provided downstream from and adjacent to said deactivator for detecting magnetism of the tag; and

a notifying unit for notifying an operator of a detection result by said detector,

wherein said tag is for [performing security management at an exit of a store] assuring that payment for said commodity attached thereon is done.

7. (Twice Amended) A commodity information management system according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a host terminal for controlling the operation of [the] an entire system;

a determining unit for determining whether or not the security tag has been deactivated according to the detection result; and

a control unit for making a report, when [it] said detection result is determined by said determining unit that the tag has not been deactivated, to [the] an effect that the security is not released to the host terminal, and also sending a notice to the effect that a retry of checking deactivation of the tag is requested to the operator.

8. (Twice Amended) A commodity information management system [according to claim 7] for managing commodity as well as security thereof based on a barcode and an activated tag attached to said commodity, said system comprising:

a reader for reading the barcode;

a deactivator provided downstream from said reader for deactivating the tag after the barcode is read by the reader;

a detector provided downstream from and adjacent to said deactivator for detecting magnetism of the tag;

a notifying unit for notifying an operator of a detection result by said detector;

a determining unit for determining whether or not the security tag has been deactivated according to the detection result;

a host terminal for controlling the operation of an entire system; and

a control unit for making a report, when said detection result is determined by said determining unit that the tag has not been deactivated, to an effect that the security is not released to the host terminal, and also sending a notice to the effect that a retry of checking deactivation of the tag is requested to the operator,

wherein said tag is for assuring that payment for said commodity attached thereon is done,
and said control unit enables, among said reader and said detector, only the function of said detector during a period of time since the request of the retry is notified until said determining unit determines that the security tag is deactivated.

9. (Three Times Amended) A commodity information management system having a barcode reader for reading a barcode, comprising:

an output unit for outputting, when the barcode is read by the barcode reader, a deactivating section-drive signal for driving a deactivating section which deactivates a security tag attached to commodity;

a magnetic detector arranged adjacent to said deactivating section for detecting the magnetic field of the security tag; and

a notifying unit for sending a notice to the operator when magnetism of the security tag is detected by said magnetic detector after said deactivating section is driven,

wherein said tag is for [performing security management at an exit of a store] assuring that payment for said commodity attached thereon is done.

10. (Amended) The commodity information magnet system as recited in claim 1, wherein said tag is made of magnetic material and has a thin, [plate-like] plate shape.

11. (Amended) The commodity information magnet system as recited in claim 2, wherein said tag is made of magnetic material and has a thin, [plate-like] plate shape.

12. (Amended) The commodity information magnet system as recited in claim 9, wherein said tag is made of magnetic material and has a thin, [plate-like] plate shape.